

We claim:

1. A method for making a lottery ticket comprising the steps of:
 - imaging play indicia on a substrate;
 - imaging a first set of data in a bar code format on said substrate;
 - covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material; and
 - covering said first set of data with a second scratch-off material covering a portion but not all of said first set of data.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein at least a first portion of said first set of data is functionally related to said play indicia.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said portion of said first set of data includes validation data at least a portion of which is covered by said second scratch-off coating.
4. The method of Claim 2 wherein said portion of said first set of data includes inventory data at least a portion of which is covered by said second scratch-off coating.
5. The method of Claim 2 wherein said portion of said first set of data includes at least one check digit at least a portion of which is covered by said second scratch-off coating.
6. The method of Claim 2 wherein said step of covering said portion of said first set of data with said second scratch-off coating includes covering any of said first set of data that is redundant to said first portion covered by said second scratch-off material and required to machine read said first set of data.
7. The method of Claim 1 wherein of said first set of data is in the form of code words having a predetermined level of redundancy and wherein said second scratch-off material covers a greater number of said code word words than are defined by said level of redundancy.
8. The method of Claim 1 additionally including a step of printing a human readable warning in an ink that will not interfere with optical reading of said bar code beneath said second scratch-off material.
9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said bar code includes a set of inventory data and said second scratch-off material does not cover said inventory data.
10. The lottery ticket of Claim 1 wherein said bar code includes a set of validation data and wherein said second scratch-off material covers at least a portion of said validation data.
11. The lottery ticket of Claim 1 wherein said bar code includes a set of check digits and wherein said second scratch-off material covers at least portion of said validation data.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein said bar code includes a prize code and wherein said second scratch-off material covers at least portion of said prize code.
13. The method of Claim 1 wherein said bar code includes a ticket identifier and wherein said second scratch-off material covers at least portion of said ticket identifier.
14. The method of Claim 1 additionally including a step of imaging a win code and a ticket identifier on said substrate.
15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said step of covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material additionally includes covering said win code and at least a portion of said ticket identifier with said first scratch-off coating.
16. A method for making a lottery ticket comprising the steps of:
imaging play indicia on a front side of a lottery ticket;
covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material;
imaging a first bar code including validation data printed on said front side;
imaging a second bar code including inventory data on a back side of said lottery ticket; and
printing a second scratch-off material covering at least a portion said first bar code.
17. The lottery ticket of Claim 16 wherein a second scratch-off material covers only a portion but not all of said first bar code.
18. The lottery ticket of Claim 16 wherein said first bar code includes a set of check digits functionally related to at least a portion of the data in said back bar code.
19. The lottery ticket of Claim 16 wherein said first bar code includes a set of check digits functionally related to at least a portion of the inventory data in said back bar code.
20. The method of Claim 16 additionally including a step of imaging a win code and a ticket identifier adapted to be read by a player ticket checker on said front side of said lottery ticket.
21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said step of covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material additionally includes covering said win code and at least a portion of said ticket identifier with said first scratch-off coating.
22. A method for making a lottery ticket comprising the steps of:
imaging play indicia on a front side of a lottery ticket;
covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material;

- imaging a win code on said front side;
- imaging a ticket identifier on said front side; and
- covering said win code and at least a portion of said ticket identifier with a second scratch-off coating.

23. The method of Claim 22 wherein said step of covering said play indicia by a first scratch-off material additionally includes covering said win code and at least a portion of said ticket identifier with said first scratch-off coating.

24. A lottery ticket comprising:

- a substrate having a first and a second side;
- a play area at least partially covered by a first scratch-off material on said first side;
- a machine readable win code printed on said first side;
- a ticket identifier, adapted to be read by a player ticket checker, printed on said first side; and
- a second scratch-off material covering said ticket identifier.

25. The lottery ticket of Claim 24 wherein said second scratch-off material covering said ticket identifier is the same as said first scratch-off material.

26. A lottery ticket redemption apparatus for redeeming a lottery ticket comprising:

- an agent terminal having a keyboard, a display and a bar code reader adapted to read a bar code printed on the lottery ticket;
- a player ticket checker, operatively connected to said agent terminal, having a data reader adapted to read a win code and a ticket identifier printed on the lottery ticket;
- a pre-validation file, operatively associated with said data reader, adapted to receive at least one of said ticket identifiers; and
- a processor, including a microprocessor, operatively connected to said agent terminal and said player ticket checker effective to determine if said ticket identifier printed on the lottery ticket read by said data reader corresponds to one of said ticket identifiers in said pre-validation file such that the lottery ticket can be validated by said agent terminal without having to manually enter said ticket identifier by said keyboard.

27. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said processor and said pre-validation file are located in said agent terminal and said ticket checker is effective to transmit said ticket identifier read by said data reader to said processor for said determination.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said processor is effective to generate a message on said display instructing a lottery agent to manually enter said ticket identifier if said ticket identifier printed on the lottery ticket read by said data reader does not corresponds to one of said corresponding ticket identifiers in said pre-validation file.
29. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein the lottery ticket includes data printed in a bar code and said ticket identifier is a function of said data.
30. The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said data includes a validation number and said ticket identifier is a check sum of at least a portion of said validation number.
31. The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said data includes a inventory data number and said ticket identifier is a check sum of at least a portion of said inventory data.
32. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein said player ticket checker is located remote from said agent terminal and said data reader is adapted to read a win code printed on the lottery ticket and wherein said player ticket checker additionally includes a display for indicating the ticket is a winner or not in response to said win code read by said data reader.
33. The apparatus of Claim 32 wherein said processor and said pre-validation file are located in said agent terminal and said ticket checker is effective to transmit said ticket identifier read by said data reader to said processor for said determination when said win code read by said data reader indicates that the ticket is a winner.
34. A lottery ticket comprising:
 - a substrate having a first and a second side;
 - a play area at least partially covered by a first scratch-off material on said first side;
 - a set of identifying data printed on said substrate that identifies the lottery ticket; and
 - a ticket identifier at least partially covered by a second scratch-off material and printed on said substrate in both a machine readable and a human readable format wherein said ticket identifier is functionally related to at least a portion of said identifying data.
35. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein said second scratch-off material is included in said first scratch-off material.
36. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 additionally including a win code printed on said substrate wherein said second scratch-off material covers said win code.
37. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein at least a portion of said identifying data is printed in a bar code format and said ticket identifier is located in said bar code.

38. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein said play area, said win code and said ticket identifier are located on a first side of said substrate and wherein said win code and said ticket identifier are covered by a scratch-off material.
39. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein at least a portion of said identifying data functionally related to said ticket identifier is inventory data.
40. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein at least a portion of said identifying data functionally related to said ticket identifier is validation data.
41. The lottery ticket of Claim 34 wherein said ticket identifier is a check sum of said portion of said identifying data.